Sunday, May 2, 2021

Lesson Text: I Kings 22:15-23, 26-28

King James Version (KJV)

I. MICAIAH’S SARCASTIC PROPHECY (I Kings 22:15-16)

15. So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

16. And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the Lord?

II. MICAIAH’S TRUE PROPHECY (I Kings 22:17-23)

17. And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the Lord said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.

18. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?
19. And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

20. And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

21. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him.

22. And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

23. Now therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee.

III. MICAIAH’S PROPHECY INFURIATES THE KING (I Kings 22:26-28)

26. And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king’s son;

27. And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison,
and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.

28. And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the Lord hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you.

New International Version (NIV)

I. MICAIAH’S SARCASTIC PROPHECY (I Kings 22:15-16)

15. When he arrived, the king asked him, “Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or not?” “Attack and be victorious,” he answered, “for the Lord will give it into the king’s hand.”

16. The king said to him, “How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?”

II. MICAIAH’S TRUE PROPHECY (I Kings 22:17-23)

17. Then Micaiah answered, “I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the Lord said, ‘These people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.’”
18. The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Didn’t I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?”

19. Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne with all the multitudes of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left.

20. And the Lord said, ‘Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?’ “One suggested this, and another that.

21. Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the Lord and said, ‘I will entice him.’

22. “‘By what means?’ the Lord asked. “‘I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said. “‘You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the Lord. ‘Go and do it.’

23. “So now the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The Lord has decreed disaster for you.”

III. MICAIAH’S PROPHECY INFURIATES THE KING (I Kings 22:26-28)

26. The king of Israel then ordered, “Take Micaiah and send
him back to Amon the ruler of the city and to Joash the king’s son

27. and say, ‘This is what the king says: Put this fellow in prison and give him nothing but bread and water until I return safely.’”

28. Micaiah declared, “If you ever return safely, the Lord has not spoken through me.” Then he added, “Mark my words, all you people!”

**PRACTICAL POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Although prophets speak for God, if we only want to hear what we want to hear, we may be asking for trouble (I Kings 22:15-18).

2. God’s Word can come to His spokesperson in many ways including visions (I Kings 22:19-22).

3. As the sovereign God, He can use anything and anyone to accomplish His purposes (I Kings 22:23).

4. It takes courage to speak truth to power because it may result in harsh repercussions (I Kings 22:26-27).
5. Regardless of what we think or feel, if God said it, it will always come to pass (I Kings 22:28; Numbers 23:19).